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General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 51/45 O of 10 December 1996, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", paragraphs 3 to 7 of which read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"...

"3. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

"4. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and a phased programme of progressive and balanced deep reductions of nuclear weapons, and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons within a time-bound framework;

"5. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations early in 1997 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework through a nuclear weapons convention;

"6. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account in this regard the proposal of the twenty-eight delegations for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"..."

2. In connection with the implementation of the above resolution, a number of proposals and intiatives have been put forward. In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of Member States to the report of the Conference on Disarmament

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(A/52/27) on its 1997 session, which contains proposals made regarding the points raised in the resolution.

3. The achievements over the past months, in particular the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the consolidation of various nuclear-weapon-free arrangements, while significant, do not yet encompass the remaining nuclear stockpiles. They have nevertheless created a momentum that could facilitate further progress towards substantially reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons.